

March 26, 1962

Dr. Francis J. Ryan
Department of Zoology
Columbia University
New York 27, New York

Dear Francis:

In re. Cold Spring Harbor, I suggest turning it into a new institute for advanced study. It would be particularly directed towards the impact of science on national policy, and especially the problem of peace and the control of arms. However, the laboratory facilities would be available for fellows who did not wish to completely abandon their scientific research pursuits during the fellowship year. I should think the new disarmament agency might be especially interested in the existence of such a facility. One can think of people like Szilard who, in years past, would have specially profited from it.

This function would be by no means incompatible with the continuation of the summer symposium series. Some of these would continue to be devoted to the customary kinds of strictly scientific conferences, the others might be oriented towards the science policy problems just alluded to.

Before you throw this idea out altogether, and I am not sure that your or my own personal interests are best accommodated by it, I hope you take some opportunity to discuss it with people like Szilard, Seymour Melman, and Jerry Weisner. A prototype for it might be more nearly the Center for Advanced Study in Behavioral Sciences, such as we have here on the Stanford campus, but it is just the impossibility of continuing any laboratory work at the Behavioral Center here that discourages the participation of more physically minded people.

Yours sincerely,¹

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

Ryan